

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:EHULEN:C0

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HABIB

EA/PHL:BAFLECK (DRAFT)

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

EA;WGLEYSTEEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

SECRET STATE 029555

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MASS, RP

SUBJECT: GOP REQUEST FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: MANILA 1667

FOR AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN FROM HA01B

1. MELCHOR REITERATED HIS REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT FOR FOUR BATTALIONS IN HAWAII MEETING WITH DEP ASST SECY GLEYSTEEN. MELCHOR EMPHASIZED THAT THE NEED WAS URGENT AND THAT THE GOP WAS PREPARED TO PAY CASH FOR THE EQUIPMENT REQUESTED. HE STATED THAT IT WOULD BE USED TO EQUIP NEW UNITS TO BE RECRUITED LARGEMLY FROM MILITIA AND ROTC PERSONNEL. THEIR ROLE WOULD BE SEMI-STATIC AND ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE, TO HOLD AREAS THAT THE INSURRECTIONISTS MIGHT OTHERWISE SEIZE. MELCHOR FEARED THAT THE MNLF WOULD NOW TRY TO OCCUPY POPULATION CENTERS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES AND IN ORDER TO PUT THEMSELVES IN A BETTER POSITION FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF BARGAINING. THE NEW BATTALIONS WOULD HELP TO

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DEFEND SUCH THREATENED AREAS.

2. MORE GENERAL COMMENTS BY MELCHOR INCLUDED INQUIRY
WHETHER TAIWAN WAS A GOOD SOURCE FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT
WHICH THE GOP NEEDS (THIS WAS POLITELY DISCOURAGED), AND

HIS AGREEMENT WITH GLEYSTEEN STATEMENT THAT THE MUSLIM
PROBLEM COULD NOT BE RESOLVED SIMPLY BY MILITARY METHODS,
A CONVICTION HE SAID WAS ALSO HELD BY MARCOS.

3. IF YOU AGREE, SUGGEST EMBASSY FOLLOW UP WITH MELCHOR.
AS YOU SUGGEST GOP SHOULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE DETAIL
THROUGH REQUESTS INITIATED IN REGULAR JUSMAG CHANNELS.
WE WILL THEN AWAIT YOUR VIEWS. KISSINGER

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